(b) if so what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Information on operational holdings and area operated for different size classes are collected during Agricultural Census. The data on land holdings was also collected by National Sample Surveys Organisation in their 17th, 26th and 37th Rounds. Due to differences in the methodology, concepts and definitions adopted in the NSSO surveys and the Agricultural Censuses, the two sets of data will not be strictly comparable.

A statement showing the number and area of operatonal holdings in size class of 1-2 ha. per the Agricultural Census and percentage distribution of operational holdings as reflected in the 17th, 26th and 37th Rounds of NSS (All India) for size class 101—202, is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(A) Number and area of operational holdings in size class 1-2 ha.

AGRICULTURAL CENSUS

Year	No. of holdings (,000)	Area operated ('000 ha.)	Average size (ha.)
1970-71	13,432	19,282	1.4355
1976-77 . . .	14,728	20,905	1.4194
1980-81	16,072	23,169	1.4416

(B) Percentage distribution of oper- tional holdings

RURAL

Size class of operational holding (ha.)	17th Round (1961-62)	26th Round (1971-72)	37th Round 1982
1.01—2.02	22.62	22.38	19.32

Credit norms for small and marginal farmers

343. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modify the credit norms for the farmers considering the inability of the small and marginal farmers to avail of facility of subsidised inputs because of the constant rise in the prices; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration to modify the credit norms for farmers. However, scales of finance are revised appropriately to take care of increase, if any in input prices.

Rise in milk prices

344. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of rise in the milk prices effected by DMS & Mother Dairy recently in the Capital;

(b) when the milk prices were raised last and the percentage by which the prices were raised then;

(c) what are the reasons for recent hike in milk prices;

(d) what is the percentage of rise in the milk prices in other States in the country as a consequence thereof;

(e) what is its likely impact on the consumer as a whole and people belonging to the weaker sections of the society in particular; and

(f) what measures Government propose to take to bring down milk prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The percentage of rise in the milk prices effected by Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) and Mother Dairy with effect from 30-12-1988 is 36.3 per cent and 42.8 per cent respectively.

(b) The prices of toned milk sold by DMS were earlier raised by 22.2% with effect from 9|4|1985 and the prices of Mother Dairy toned milk were raised by 2.9% from 1-7-1985.

(c) The reasons for increase in milk prices are:—

(i) Higher procurement prices of fresh milk paid to rural producers.

(ii) Increase in the prices of conserved commodities like Butter Oil, Skimmed Milk Powder, and Butter used for recombination.

(iii) Increase in other operating and overhead costs.

(d) At the time of price increases by DMS and Mother Dairy, the prices of milk of comparable quality marketed by various States/Cooperative Dairies in major cities were generally higher than those charged by DMS and Mother Dairy. Government have not received any reports of rise in milk prices in other States as a consequence of price increase effected by DMS and Mother Dairy.

(e) No survey has been conducted to assess the impact of price increase on consumers belonging to different economic categories.

(f) No measures are being proposed to bring down the prices of milk charged by DMS and Mother Dairy.

Shortage of pig iron

345. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints of acute shortage of pig iron from the small scale industries organisation and if so, what is the present production of pig iron and requirement of industry;

(b) whether there are complaints about distribution of imported pig iron and whether pig iron imported is not suitable to small scale foundaries working in India due to high Sulphur content; and

(c) whether any long term solution is being worked out by Government?